

Conservation *Wise*

Energy Conservation: You CAN Make a Difference!

Saving Energy in Your Home: Appliances

*Nda-Agyima Addae-Mensah and Natalie Carroll,
Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering*



*These publications were developed
with assistance from the
Purdue Extension Energy
Conservation Team*

How Can Appliances Save Energy?

Appliances account for 10–15% of the energy consumed in the average U.S. household. Proper selection, use, and care of your appliances can help minimize your energy usage.

What Should I Do?

Dishwasher

- Follow the manufacturer's **recommendations** for water temperature.
- **Minimize your use of soaking, prewash, or rinse-hold cycles.** (Use only for burned-on or dried-on food.)
- **Wash full loads** rather than partial loads.
- **Air dry** your dishes.
- **Do not overload** your dishwasher.

Purchasing Tip: Look for brands that use less water and less energy than required by federal standards.

Refrigerator

- **Defrost refrigerators and freezers regularly** to maximize the energy efficiency of the unit. (Don't allow frost to build up more than ¼ inch.)
- **Maintain correct temperatures:** 37°F to 40°F for fresh foods and 5°F for frozen foods.
- **Keep the door seal airtight.** Adjust or replace the seal if necessary. Or consider purchasing a new unit.

Purchasing Tip: Look for refrigerators that use less energy than required by current federal standards. Select the right size for your needs (do not get oversized). Top freezer models are more energy efficient.

Laundry

- **Wash clothes in cold water** using cold-water detergents, saving more than \$40 a year with an electric water heater and more than \$30 a year with a gas water heater.
- **Wash full loads** rather than multiple smaller loads to save approximately 3,400 gallons of water a year.
- **Use the cool-down cycle** to allow clothes to finish drying using residual heat.
- **Dry towels and heavier cotton separately** from lightweight clothes, which dry much faster.
- **Clean the lint filter in the dryer after each use.**

Purchasing Tip:

Clothes washer—ENERGY STAR washers use about 15 gallons of water per load, compared to more than 30 gallons used by some standard washing machines. They also spin the clothes better, resulting in shorter drying time.

Clothes dryer—Look for moisture sensors that automatically shut off the machine when clothes are dry. This will save energy and wear and tear on your clothing.

Microwave

- Use to preheat or cook small portions of food rather than heating in an oven.
- Cook with a microwave in the summer to avoid heat from your oven.

Stove

- Keep reflectors clean to improve heat reflection.

Purchasing Tip: When purchasing a natural gas oven, choose one with an automatic, electric ignition system. Note: ENERGY STAR labels are not available for stove ranges and ovens.



Where Can I Learn More?

- Local library and home improvement stores
- *Energy Savers Booklet: Tips on Saving Energy and Money at Home* (PDF download: 3.5 MB), U.S. Department of Energy, www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/
- Energy Savers website, U.S. Department of Energy, www.energysavers.gov/
- ENERGY STAR website, U.S. Department of Energy, www.energystar.gov

References

- Energy Savers Booklet: Tips on Saving Energy and Money at Home*, U.S. Department of Energy, www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/ (accessed 07/15/2010).
- ENERGY STAR–qualified appliances fact sheet, www.energysavers.gov/your_home/appliances/ (accessed 07/25/2010).

PURDUE AGRICULTURE

NEW 9/11

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Purdue Extension
Knowledge to Go
1-888-EXT-INFO

Order or download materials at the Purdue Extension
Education Store • www.the-education-store.com